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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH

August 9, 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Tom Schreyer

Tom -

Attached is the memo I discussed with you at some length by phone. Mr. Johnson understands that Mr. Dulles may want to suggest an arrangement whereby the USIA representative would be brought in to an appropriate nucleus of the Berlin Task Force for consideration of those items of concern to USIA.

Joe

Joseph W. Scott

Declassified
Authority: 35923
By: Alan Lipton
Date: 06-07-2011

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August 9, 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: C - Mr. Johnson

FROM: INR/DPC - Joseph W. Scott

SUBJECT: Covert Program to Support U.S. Government Actions
Regarding Berlin

At the meeting of the Special Group on July 27, Mr. Dallas mentioned that a CIA paper outlining various covert actions that might be taken in connection with Berlin had been prepared. He distributed copies of this paper, which was dated July 18 and entitled "Covert Actions Annex on the Berlin Contingency Plan," and also copies of a related paper entitled "Questions regarding the Scope and Direction of CS Operations in Support of U.S. Government Actions in the Berlin Crisis," dated July 26. The Group felt that an appropriate nucleus of the Berlin Task Force should study these papers and submit recommendations on them for consideration by the Group.

The "appropriate nucleus" of the Berlin Task Force has not yet met to consider the two CIA papers. INR has, however, considered them and its preliminary views regarding them are attached. I believe it would be useful at this stage to convey these preliminary views bilaterally to the Agency as INR suggests.

What is needed now is a set of joint recommendations, prepared by an appropriate nucleus of the Berlin Task Force, regarding both CIA papers for submission to the Special Group.

Recommendations:

- (1) That you take the initiative in suggesting that the Group designate an "appropriate nucleus" of the Berlin Task Force to consider both of the above mentioned CIA papers and submit joint recommendations thereon to the Group in time for the Group's next meeting (August 17).
- (2) That you also suggest that the "appropriate nucleus" of the Berlin Task Force be composed of representatives of State, Defense, CIA, USIA and either the White House staff or the NSC staff.

Comments:

WJ - MR: Tyler

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Informal Draft

Mr. Eisenhower

Executive Registry
61-6265

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To: Mr. Johnson, C
Thru: S/S
From: Mr. Tyler, EUR
Subject: Covert Program to Support US Government Actions Regarding Berlin

BACKGROUND

NSC Directive No. 58 of June 30, 1961, said, "The Secretary of State and the Director of Central Intelligence should submit joint recommendations as to the timing and nature of the preparations to be taken to create a capability for inciting progressively increasing instability in East Germany and Eastern Europe, at such time after October 15 as it may be ordered. Recommendations should also be submitted as to the timing and nature of the steps to be taken to bring this capability to the attention of the Soviets before they make their critical decisions about Berlin."

As a result of this directive, CIA submitted to Mr. Kohler a paper titled "Covert Action Annex, Berlin Contingency Plan," which became Annex B of A Study Regarding Berlin, dated July 12, 1961 (TAB A). In view of the time limit on preparation of this paper, CIA did not clear it with the field. Although the paper was based on a format prepared in GER and GER commented on the paper in draft, there was not time to clear it formally in the Department.

When,

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When, following the discussion of A Study Regarding Berlin in the NSC, NSC Action Memorandum No. 39 of July 14, 1961, was issued, no reference was made to the covert annex. No further work was, therefore, done on the annex, and it was not included in the Documents Prepared in Response to NSC Action Memorandum No. 39 of July 14, 1961, dated July 18, 1961.

Following the NSC meeting of July 19, Dr. Henry Kissinger asked representatives of CIA what decisions they required to proceed with the covert program on Berlin. In response to this, CIA prepared a memorandum titled, "Questions Regarding the Scope and Direction of CS Operations in Support of U.S. Government Actions in the Berlin Crisis." (TAB B) CIA gave this memorandum to Dr. Kissinger on July 26 and sent a copy to the Department.

In this memorandum, CIA posed two basic questions: (1) did the proposals in the Covert action annex represent a useful and purposeful contribution to overall government planning? and (2) what procedures is CIA to follow ^{obtaining} in guidance and clearances for propaganda and covert action operations?

POLICY

EUR believes that, in general, CIA's Covert Action Annex provides a good basis for a covert program in connection with Berlin planning. Its only serious misgivings are connected with paragraph 17.c., which provides for the creation of a paramilitary support force in West Germany.

R/R questions

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EUR questions whether this is either desirable or practicable. It would need, however, to examine the proposal in more detail before it could arrive at a definite opinion.

EUR approves in principle of the other actions recommended for Phase I (July through September 17), which include:

1. Expansion of intelligence collection,
 2. Preparations for covert action mission;
 3. Creation of black and gray radio facilities,
 4. Consultation with West German government and political parties, and
 5. Coordination with British, French, and German intelligence services.
- EUR would, however, like to examine these projects in more detail before giving final approval.

PROCEDURES

EUR believes that the best channel for formal communication of policy guidance to CIA and clearance of CIA operations proposals is through G. EUR would, however, expect to continue to do the substantive work.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

That you initial the attached memorandum to the Director of CIA.

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To: Director, CIA
From: Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs
Subject: Covert Program to Support US Government Actions
regarding Berlin.
Reference: Covert Action Annex, Berlin Contingency Plan

The Department of State approves in general the proposals made in the Covert Action Annex, submitted to Mr. Kohler by Mr. Helms, which became Annex K of A Study Regarding Berlin Forwarded in Response to NSC Directive No. 51 of June 22, 1961, dated July 12, 1961. It has misgivings, however, concerning paragraph 17.c., which relates to the formation of a paramilitary support force in West Germany. It would like to examine this proposal in more detail before making a policy decision.

The Department of State approves your proceeding with plans for the other actions listed under Phase I (July through September 17, 1961), including:

1. The expansion of intelligence collection,
2. Preparation for covert action missions,
3. Creation of black and gray radio facilities,
4. Consultation with West German Government and political parties, and
5. Coordination with British, French, and German intelligence services.

When you have ^{prepared} ~~prepared~~ a plan for carrying out one of these actions, I suggest you submit it to us, for approval by the Department of State.

Following approval of these plans by the Department of State,

you

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you will be authorized either to make preparations for the action or
to carry out the action, as appropriate.

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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TO : CIA - Director

DATE:

FROM : Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

SUBJECT: Covert Program to Support U.S. Government Actions regarding Berlin

The Department of State approves in principle the proposals made in the Covert Action Annex, submitted to Mr. Kohler by Mr. Helms, which became Annex E of A Study Regarding Berlin Prepared in Response to NSC Directive No. 58 of June 30, 1961, dated July 12, 1961.

We have reservations, however, concerning paragraph 17.c., which relates to the formation of a paramilitary support force in West Germany. I understand that members of your staff are cooperating with the Defense Department in preparing a study of this proposal. We would like to examine this study and discuss it with your staff before reaching a final conclusion.

With regard to the other proposals listed under Phase I (July through September 17, 1961), we suggest that you develop detailed plans. Because of the inter-relationship which exists between your proposals and the other activities related to Berlin which will be moving forward at the same time, we will want to work very closely with you and your staff on matters of timing and mode of implementation.

When you have prepared a plan for carrying out one of these proposals, I suggest you submit it to me (via INR/DDC) for study by the Department of State with a view to its subsequent consideration by the Special Group, if the Department of State believes this necessary. I would think the Group in each such case would decide whether higher approval was necessary.

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